

# **Auto-Ethnographic Reflections on the Immigrant and Refugee Experience in an Inner-city High School in Toronto**

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My presentation offers a glimpse into the lives of some newly-arrived students of different racial, linguistic and religious backgrounds as they confront the process of immigration within the context of a Toronto inner-city high school. These students carry with them hidden but enduring scars from war and other oppressions that deeply influence their lives. Using auto-ethnographic methodology, my research is devoted to giving voice to these students who inhabit a space filled with suffering and loss but also with resilience and cautious hope. This presentation is intended as a meditation on the possibility of classrooms as spaces that can transform the poverty of spirit that is reflected in the personal humiliation and despair of many vulnerable children coming from places of war and other oppressions.